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SHERBORNE RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

Annual Report of the
Medical Officer of Health
for the year
1965

Medical Officer of Health : NOEL F. PEARSON, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.

Public Health Inspector : J. E. T. BASTABLE

Council Offices,
STURMINSTER NEWTON,
Dorset.

1st June , 1966.

To The Chairman and Members,
Sherborne Rural District Council.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit my Annual Report for the year 1965.

The report is prepared and will be circulated in accordance with the requirements of the Public Health Officers Regulations, 1959.

Allowing for the smallness of numbers under consideration, the vital statistics compare favourably with those for the Country as a whole.

There was no serious incidence of notifiable disease, although measles was endemic throughout the year.

I am indebted to Mr. J.E.T. Bastable, your Public Health Inspector, for his co-operation and assistance in preparing this report, and to my clerk Miss J. Shirley for her efficient services.

I would also like to acknowledge the happy co-operation and assistance I always obtain from your Clerk, Mr. I. Sartin and the other members of your staff.

Finally, may I think you, Ladies and Gentlemen, for your courtesy and consideration throughout the year.

I have the honour to be,

Your Obedient Servant,

John G Peacock.

Medical Officer of Health.

SHERBORNE RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
FOR THE YEAR

1965

A.

Area - 41,481 acres.
 Rateable value: 1st April 1966 - £128,895
 Production of a penny rate: 1965/66 - £496 (est)
 1966/67 - £511 (est)

Vital Statistics

Population (Registrar General's Estimate) - 6,480
 Natural Growth of Population (Births
 over Deaths) - 60

LIVE BIRTHS

			Comparative Rates
			(a) Sherborne (b) England
	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	R.D. & Wales
Total	61	57	Rate per 1,000
Illegitimate	Nil	2	resident pop:
)= 16.6	18.8
			18.1

STILLBIRTHS

Total	2	Nil	Rate per 1,000
(Legitimate)			{ live & stillbirths
)= 16.6
			16.6
			15.7

DEATHS

Total	34	25	Rate per 1,000
			{ resident pop:
)= 9.1
			9.1
			11.5

Deaths in Infants

Under 1 Year	Nil	Nil	Infantile death
			{ rate per 1,000
			{ live births
)= Nil
			Nil
			19.7

		<u>1965</u>	<u>1964</u>	<u>1963</u>	<u>1962</u>
Deaths from Maternal Causes		Nil	Nil	Nil	1
" " Tuberculosis		Nil	2	Nil	Nil
" " Cancer of the lungs		4	3	2	3
" " Other Cancer		11	12	13	6
" " Coronary Disease (Angina)		11	16	12	7
" " Other Heart or Vascular		15	14	28	16
diseases					
" " Influenza		Nil	1	Nil	Nil
" " Pneumonia		2	3	5	1
" " Motor vehicle accidents		Nil	2	Nil	Nil
" " All other accidents		Nil	1	1	Nil
" " Suicide		1	1	Nil	Nil
" " Leukaemia & Aleukemia		Nil	1	Nil	Nil

B. Nature of the District

The district is rural in character, its main industry being agriculture. A large number of outworkers carry on glove making in their homes for factories situated outside the district. A large dairy, with a wide supply area, is situated within the district.

The district is becoming increasingly a dormitory area for persons working in Sherborne and Yeovil.

C. Health Services in the District which are not the responsibility of the District Council

The Hospital Service

The Yeatman Hospital (West Dorset Hospital Group of the Wessex Regional Hospital Board) provide the local hospital requirements, both in-patient and out-patient.

Laboratory Services

The Public Health Laboratory Service has again proved co-operative and efficient.

General Medical Practitioner, Ophthalmic and Pharmaceutical Services

These are administered locally by the Dorset Executive Committee.

County Council Services

The personal preventive health services are the responsibility of the County Council.

They comprise, the care of mothers and young children, maternity, school health, prophylactic inoculation, home nursing, mental health, the ambulance service, the care and after care of the tuberculous, blind and handicapped, health education, the domestic help service and the welfare of the aged.

Voluntary Services

Acknowledgment must be made to the excellent voluntary work carried out in the district by the British Red Cross Society and the W.V.S. who provide a meals on wheels service - at present limited in scope but which, it is hoped will show expansion in the coming year.

Not only are the meals appreciated by the old people, but even more (one sometimes thinks) are the twice weekly visits by helpers who take the meals around.

D.

Environmental Health Services

PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF

Medical Officer of Health(Part time) - NOEL F. PEARSON
M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.

He also acts as Medical Officer of Health to four other District Councils in the North Dorset area and as Assistant County Medical Officer to the Dorset County Council.

The time available which he has to devote to his duties with your Council is rather less than one half day per week.

Dr. G.B. Hopkins of the Blandford and Wimborne districts acts as his deputy during his absence, on a reciprocal basis.

Public Health Inspector - J.E.T. Bastable.

Certificate of R.S.I. & Sanitary Inspector's Joint Board as Public Health Inspector. Certificate of Royal Society of Health as Inspector of Meat and Foods.

The Public Health Inspector also carries out the duties of Meat Inspector, Refuse Disposal and Maintenance of the Council's sewage schemes, and drainage bye-law administration and petroleum regulations inspector.

Clerical Assistance - One Clerk.

Although attempts were made during the year to appoint an additional public health inspector no appointment was made. Candidates interviewed were not prepared to accept the salary offered by the Council.

WATER SUPPLIES

Public Supplies

The Wessex Water Board are the responsible body for the public water supply in the district.

The supply has remained satisfactory in quality and quantity during the year.

Twelve samples were taken by the Public Health Department and forty six by the Water Board during the year.

Private Supplies

There are numerous private supplies to communities, farms and individual dwellings and, generally, these receive no purification treatment and can only be regarded as suspect.

A very real attempt was made during the year to investigate these supplies and to bring up to date records of properties still on unsatisfactory or suspect private supplies in an endeavour to improvement in the qualities of the supplies or connection of properties concerned to the public supply.

This important action could not be effected due to shortage of staff.

Samples taken from private supplies gave the following results.

<u>Parish</u>	<u>Unsatisfactory</u>	<u>Satisfactory</u>
Stockwood	5	3
Holwell	1	1
Bradford Abbas	4	4
Batcombe	11	13
Longburton	2	-
	—	—
	23	21
	==	==

It is pleasing to report that following unsatisfactory samples, which were taken from one private source serving a small community and a farm, the public health department were instrumental in securing the provision of a chlorination plant to purify the water. Subsequent samples were satisfactory.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE

Yetminster

The comprehensive scheme for this parish was not completed by the end of the year.

Bradford Abbas

Complaints were received concerning the surface water drainage in part of this parish and representations have been made to the County Council to get improvement.

Continued progress has been made in connecting properties on the line of the sewer in this area.

Oborne & Poyntington

The drainage to the twelve Council houses at Oborne is still unsatisfactory and no improvement is likely until a sewer is laid. The Poyntington works only give a basic settling treatment to the sewage and the effluent is discharged untreated.

The Council have decided that the sewerage scheme to serve these two parishes should receive priority following completion of the schemes which are at present being prepared.

Thornford

Appreciable development in Thornford might well give rise to surcharging of the sewer and may also lead to the need for enlargement of the sewage works.

Alweston, Trent & Bishops Caundle

These parishes are sewered and consequently enable most owners of sub-standard property to improve their houses without the expense of putting in septic tanks.

Leigh, Chetnole, Sandford Orcas and Purse Caundle.

These areas are not sewered. It was found necessary during the year to pipe in a length of roadside ditch at Leigh in order to prevent smell nuisance to nearby dwellings.

General

All of the unsewered villages have problems associated with sewage disposal.

PUBLIC CLEANSING

House Refuse Collection

Twice monthly collections are still in operation. It is causing some confusion to the public due to collections being tied to the calendar month which means that there is, at times, a three week period between collections.

The Leigh tipping site is still in use and due to the abnormal amount of rain towards the end of the year it has been very difficult to gain access to the site due to flooding and impossible to get to the tipping area. Consequently, it has been necessary to obtain the services of a contractor to spread and cover the refuse.

By the end of the year no material progress had been made in securing a new tipping area, so urgently required.

Salvage Scheme

Salvage totals were as follows -

	<u>Tons</u>	<u>Quarters</u>	<u>Lbs.</u>
Iron	4	1	14
Rags	-	3	-
Rubber	-	-	20

To a total value of £23.19s.3d.

Roadside Sanitation

The rural district laybys do not appear to be overnight stopping places for holiday makers so this possible nuisance is avoided. We do have one particular pull-in on the Marston Road which is used by dealers in rags and metal and this gives rise to the problem of getting them moved on.

Cesspool Emptying

The Modern Cleansing Company (Yeovil) are under contract for work at the Council's housing sites and this arrangement has worked satisfactorily.

RIVERS AND STREAMS POLLUTION

Farm effluent is still responsible for most of the pollution complaints received, especially when silage liquor is discharged.

The Council have accepted the interim and consent standards placed on their various works in the area of the Somerset River Authority.

OFFICES, SHOPS & RAILWAY PREMISES ACT, 1963

Your public health inspector was appointed as an inspector under this Act. Eight inspections only, were carried out during the year.

THE SHOPS ACT

No. of inspections carried out	16
No. of defects found	1
No. of notices served	1
No. of notices complied with	1

THE CLEAN AIR ACT, 1956

One informal notice was made to a factory in the area to abate a smoke nuisance caused by an oil-fired boiler.

FACTORIES ACT, 1961(nil figures not given)

	<u>No. of Premises on Register.</u>	<u>Inspec-tions</u>
(i) Factories in which Sections 1,2,3,4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	7	-
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	24	4
Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises)	5	-
	36	4

No case was referred by H.M. Inspector of Factories.

No. of out-workers - Nil.

It is to be noted that only four out of thirty six premises were inspected during the year.

SWIMMING BATHS

There is one open air bath at a private establishment where members of the public have occasional access by invitation. No treatment of the water is carried out.

MOVEABLE DWELLINGS AND CAMPING SITES

There are thirteen sites for individual caravans licensed under the Caravan Sites (Control of Development) Act, 1960.

No. of inspections carried out - 8

VERMINIOUS PREMISES

No action was called for or taken during the year.

PUBLIC HEALTH NUISANCES

Intensive agriculture produces its own special public health problems. Serious nuisances have been complained of during the year from the disposal of waste farm effluent and fly nuisance.

PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT, 1949

The North Dorset Joint Rodent Committee, of which the Sherborne Rural District Council is one of the six constituent authorities, continued to carry out the provisions of this Act.

The work of the Committee continued to function smoothly and expeditiously.

RAG FLOCK AND OTHER FILLING MATERIALS ACT, 1951

There are no premises subject to registration under the above-mentioned Act, within the district.

ANIMAL BOARDING ESTABLISHMENTS ACT

Under the Act, with certain limited exceptions, any person who carries on a business of providing accommodation for other people's animals, even in a private house, must be registered under this Act, by the District Council.

Two premises in your district are registered under the Act.

No. of inspections carried out 3

PET ANIMALS ACT, 1951

No premises in the district are licensed under this Act.

SCHOOLS (INCLUDING SCHOOL CANTEENS)

Inspections continued to be carried out under this heading.

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACTS, 1948 and 1951 - Section 47.

No action was required to be taken during the year under these Acts with regard to the compulsory removal of persons in need of care and attention.

RADIOACTIVE SUBSTANCES ACT

No premises are registered under the Act in your district.

PUBLIC CONVENIENCES

No public conveniences are provided by your Authority.

HOUSING

Total No. of houses in the district 2,222

It was not possible to carry out a routine inspection of houses under the Housing Acts to ascertain their condition and inspections had to be confined to complaints.

No. of houses inspected during the year	<u>8</u>
No. of inspections made	<u>15</u>
No. of informal notices served	<u>3</u>
No. of informal notices complied with	<u>2</u>
No. of statutory notices served	<u>5</u>
No. of statutory notices complied with	<u>2</u>
No. of houses reported under Section 16 of the Housing Act, 1958	<u>6</u>

Action taken by the Local Authority
in respect of such houses -

Demolition Orders made 1
Undertakings accepted for -

Closure	<u>5</u>
Reconditioning	<u>Nil</u>
Other Action	<u>Nil</u>

No. of houses included in Clearance Areas
during the year Nil

Slum Clearance

Very limited action was taken during the year with regard to slum clearance. An appreciable number of houses in the district are recognised as being unfit for habitation but in the absence of new houses being available in quantity for re-housing, limited action only was practicable in enforcing closure or demolition of unfit property.

Overcrowding

No cases of statutory overcrowding were found during the year.

Houses Known to be Let in Lodgings

No houses are known to be let in lodgings.

Improvement Grants (Housing Act, 1949 and Housing Repairs and Rents Act, 1954)

Twenty four applications (compared with fifty in 1964) were received during the year for discretionary grants under the above-mentioned Act, seven applications were received in respect to standing grants compared with six during the preceding year.

It is some years now since any systematic inspection of dwellings in the area has been possible. The Housing Act of 1964 has laid a duty on the Council to carry out such a survey, but with the present staff position it does not appear likely that action in this direction will be able to be taken. This is to be regretted as a positive drive to get all properties in the district brought up to standard would be most welcome.

Provision of New Houses and Re-Housing

Forty six new houses were built in the district by private enterprise (compared with forty two in 1964).

During the year the Council completed eleven new houses and active planning took place with regard to new housing at Thornford and new development in Yetminster.

As the Council house waiting list still reflects a present shortage of houses to let in the district, the provision of these further houses is welcomed.

Waiting List

One hundred and twenty one applicants were on the Council house waiting list at the end of the year, of which seventy one were resident in the district, compared with one hundred and twelve and eighty two respectively, at the end of 1964.

Twenty six applicants were housed by the Council during the year, compared with fourteen during the preceding year.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD SUPPLIES

1. Milk

Food & Drugs Act, 1955

No. of 'Dealers' subject to registration by the District Council 5

No. of 'Dairies' in the district subject to registration 1

No. of 'Distributors' subject to registration 5

Samples

By arrangement and to avoid duplication the sampling of milk in the district is carried out by officers of the County Council. Two hundred and sixty four samples were taken during the year.

Brucellosis

No samples were taken by your officers for examination for Brucellosis infection.

It was suspected that one person living outside your district had been infected some time previously, by cream produced in your district. Investigation on the farm gave negative results.

Milk & Dairies(General)Regulations, 1959 Regulation 20.

No formal action was called for or taken during the year.

2. Other Food Premises

The inspection and supervision of food premises is one of the principal duties of a public health department.

This includes the inspection for evidence of disease and fitness for human consumption of all animals killed at the slaughterhouse, the examination as may be necessary of all other foods sold in the district and the supervision of food premises and food vehicles to ensure that food is stored, prepared and sold under clean and hygienic conditions.

To maintain adequate supervision all food premises should be inspected, at least, twice a year. It is regretted that during 1965 only thirty five of the fifty eight premises in the district were inspected.

The number of food premises in the area, by type of business:-

Inns,Hotels,Restaurants,Cafes and Boarding houses	20
Canteens - School & Workplace	2
Confectioners	6
Grocers	2
Mixed Stores	20
Boarding Schools & Other Residential institutions	3
Food Factories	3
Stalls & Mobile Shops	1
Other (Slaughterhouse)	1
Total -	58

No. of such premises inspected
during the year _____ 35

No. of inspections carried out _____ 61

Regulations 16 & 19 of the Food Hygiene (General) Regulations, 1960 are applicable to all of the above listed premises and all comply.

No. of food premises subject to registration under Section 16 of the Food & Drugs Act, 1955 in respect of -

Ice Cream	<u>26</u>
Sausages & Prepared Meats	<u>1</u>
Fish & Chips	<u>Nil</u>

No. of samples of ice cream submitted for Methylene Blue Test Nil

Ice Cream(Heat Treatment etc) Regulations, 1947 - 1952

There are no manufacturers of ice cream in the district.

Byelaws in respect of Handling and Wrapping of Food Etc.

These byelaws are operative within the district.

LIQUID EGG (PASTEURISATION) REGULATIONS, 1963

There are no egg pasteurisation plants in the district and no samples have been submitted for examination.

SUMMARY OF SANITARY INSPECTIONS CARRIED OUT

Total No. of inspections (under all headings)	<u>1,067</u>
Total No. of informal notices served	<u>14</u>
Total No. of informal notices complied with	<u>4</u>
Total No. of statutory notices served	<u>15</u>
Total No. of statutory notices complied with	<u>10</u>
No. of prosecutions	<u>Nil</u>

Slaughterhouses

There is one licensed slaughterhouse in the district.

Particulars of inspection of carcases carried out, are in the following table -

Carcasses and Offal Inspected and Condemned 1965.

	Cattle Excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number killed	98	-	1	109	1
Number Inspected	98	-	1	109	1
<u>All diseases except</u> <u>Tuberculosis and</u> <u>Cysticerci</u>					
Whole carcasses condemned	-	-	-	-	-
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	11	-	-	26	-
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis and cysticerci	11.22	-	-	23.85	-
<u>Tuberculosis only</u>					
Whole carcasses condemned	-	-	-	-	-
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	-	-	-	-	-
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis	-	-	-	-	-
<u>Cysticercosis</u>					
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	-	-	-	-	-
Carcases submitted to treatment by refrigeration	-	-	-	-	-
Generalized and totally condemned	-	-	-	-	-

E.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASE

Other than Tuberculosis -

<u>Disease</u>	<u>Total Cases Notified</u>
Measles	69
Pneumonia	1
Scarlet Fever	2

Tuberculosis -

	<u>New Cases Notified</u>	<u>Respiratory Non-Respiratory</u>
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Nil	Nil
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Food Poisoning

No cases of suspected food poisoning were notified during the year.

NOEL F. PEARSON
Medical Officer of Health.

